

Trinity Parish

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church · Camp Hill, Pennsylvania · December 2012 Edition
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Wait!

Watch!

Wonder!



Wait! Watch! Wonder! Midweek Advent Services

During this holy season of preparation for the coming of Christ, join us for worship at our Midweek Advent services. This year's theme is "Wait! Watch! Wonder!" These three imperatives are directed both to the people Israel so long ago, the earliest Christian communities in the first centuries after Jesus' birth, and finally to the Church in this age (and thus to you and me). In spite of our busyness, in spite of our self-absorption, in spite of the distractions of our weary and war-torn world, we are exhorted in Holy Scripture to wait and watch and wonder as God makes all things news.

Midweek services are held on Wednesday mornings (7:00 a.m.) and Thursday evenings (6:30 p.m.) in our chapel. Holy Communion is offered at each service. A breakfast in Fellowship Hall follows each Wednesday morning service.

Dates and themes are as follows: December 5 and 6 (*Wait!*), December 12 and 13 (*Watch!*), and December 19 and 20 (*Wonder!*)

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day at Trinity

4:00 p.m. Children's Service

Children's Choirs
Children's Bell Choir
Vicar Ursula Schreffler, leading

7:00 p.m. Contemporary Service

Candlelighting and Holy Communion
FaithX
Pastor Nancy Easton, preaching

8:30 p.m. Traditional Service

Candlelighting and Holy Communion
Matins Choir
Youth Strings
Youth Bell Choir
Pastor Glenn Ludwig, preaching

11:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Candlelighting
Chancel Choir
Adult Bell Choir
String Chamber Orchestra
Pastor Glenn Ludwig, leading

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Traditional Liturgy with Holy Communion
Pastor John Brock, preaching



OUR VISION

"Disciples in the making, making disciples"

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Called by the Holy Spirit to be Christ's Disciples, we seek to equip ourselves and others to live like Christ, and to be sent into the world proclaiming and living the Good News as daily witnesses of God's transforming love."

Staff Notes

“Color Me Hope”

The Reverend Glenn E. Ludwig

Barbara Brown Taylor, in her book on breathing life into old spiritual disciplines (*An Altar in the World*), writes: “When you live in God, your day begins when you lose yourself long enough for God to find you, and when God finds you, to lose yourself again in praise.”

Advent calls us to such losing. We light candles in the dark and sit quietly before their wavering light, waiting for a clearer light to come into our lives and our dark worlds. We adorn our spaces with the blue of Godly hope and stare into the infinity of the hope such color evokes. We gather in hushed places, cognizant of our fears, but whispering words of expectation.

Advent is all of this, and more; more than poets and preachers can give voice unto. And because it is more, because of the promises we shall quietly hear amidst the world’s noises and premature celebrations, because of what we long for, desire and dream, we await God’s grandest answer to “the hopes and fears of all the years;” our hopes and fears, real and present.

Maybe the best way to offer the words is by lighting a candle, gazing at the blue, letting our hearts go and losing ourselves in the mystery of God’s coming among us. It is that for which we wait, and pray, and hope.

And so we pray: Come, Lord Jesus. Color my world with your ever-shining light, for that is the deepest desire of my soul.

Come, Lord Jesus. Light the flame of our desires, so that the visions we capture are of a world of peace and justice and wholeness.

Come, Lord Jesus. Open the door to our inner, unworded longings, so that we might give song to your Word among and in us.

Come, Lord Jesus. Kindle in us the use of community, where love and grace are known in flesh and blood; in our neighbor.

Come, Lord Jesus. Color me blue with the fabric of your quiet presence for the world about me knows no such depth.

Come, Lord Jesus. Let my prayers rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my thoughts as the evening sacrifice.

AMEN.

Sunday, December 9 - 4:00 p.m.
CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY

Timothy Koch, conductor
Selections from Handel’s MESSIAH
Amy Yovanovich, Christyan Seay
guest soloists
and other Christmas music from the
Chancel, Matins, Children’s Choirs and FaithX
with full orchestra

Free admission - early seating advised.
Festive reception to follow.

Sunday, December 16 - 4:00 p.m.
THE SUSQUEHANNA CHORALE

Linda Tedford, Director
A Candlelight Christmas
Tickets required: Reg. \$20;
Seniors/Students \$18
Trinity Concert Series Patrons:
Free (4 max.) - available in church office
\$20 and \$18 tickets available at the door
or by calling 214-ARTS.

You’re Invited!

The Arts Committee and Fellowship Team cordially invites you to attend a reception immediately following the Christmas at Trinity concert on Sunday, December 9. The concert will feature Trinity’s choirs and hand bells with an orchestra and will begin at 4:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space. We are requesting food donations, such as appetizers and desserts, be brought to the kitchen by 12:00 noon on December 9.

December Birthdays

Our Homebound

December 9 **John Orris**
11 Moore Circle
Carlisle, PA 17013

Our Staff

December 2 **The Reverend Nancy R. Easton**
December 22 **Juan Rivera**

*President's Letter to the Congregation
New Format for Annual Congregation
Meeting in January 2013*

Greetings to all Trinity Congregation members:

Over the years Trinity has added more worship opportunities for our membership. We now have weekly worship at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays and four services on Sundays. Having diverse worship opportunities has enabled many members to worship on a consistent basis regardless of work schedules and other commitments. A diverse worship schedule has become our congregation's greatest asset.

Recognizing that our congregation's weekly worship is conducted over a four day period we will be having a continuous Annual Congregation meeting beginning at the conclusion of worship on Thursday, continuing at the conclusion of the Saturday service and on through the conclusion of the two early services on Sunday through the end of the 10:45 a.m. service and ending at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. service.

Each meeting will be conducted in the same way with each segment voting on new Congregation Council members and any other possible agenda issues. New Council members will be installed at the 11:00 a.m. service segment on Sunday, January 27, 2013.

Because of this new format we are asking all members to please submit nominations for new Church Council members no later than 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2013.

This new format will enable all Trinity members to take part in the Annual Congregation meeting and the more involvement from our members the stronger our Trinity Family will be.

See you at the Annual Congregation Meeting January 24, 26 and 27!

*Barb Musselman
Council President*

December Artist of the Month

Harry Spilker, our Artist of the Month, is an 18 year old young man with Down syndrome. He lives with his parents and attends the CAIU MDS class at Camp Hill High School, and the Center for Industrial Training in Mechanicsburg. Harry's artistic medium is photography, but he has also shown painting and collage. He generally uses his iPad; Nintendo 3DS or Dad's cell phone to capture images then manipulates the colors and other aspects of pictures to create an artistic effect.

Harry has shown his work at the Art Center in Mechanicsburg and at the Celebration of Children sponsored by PECAN, and donated his art to Caitlin's Smiles for their annual fundraiser. Harry enjoys horseback riding, swimming, and soccer, and has been collecting rocks and fossils for about six years. He is a member of the Central PA Rock and Mineral Club and has exhibited at the Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show at the Zembo Shrine in Harrisburg.

Blood Bank News

Have you been looking for a fantastic Christmas gift that doesn't cost anything and will be the correct size? Donate a unit of blood and you could be helping up to three people, as well as bringing Trinity Lutheran's Blood Bank that much closer to our goal of 200 units! My contact at Central PA Blood Bank tells me that we are credited with 176 units as of October 31. That is great since we still have two months until December 31. Your donation might make the difference.

Our first Blood Drive of 2013 will be held on Sunday, January 27. Sign Up will be in the Gathering Space on Sundays January 13 and 20. Many thanks to all Trinity's Fantastic Blood Donors this year.

Jeanie Bentzel



Missions Corner



Amani Hosea

Amani Hosea to Visit Trinity in January

Amani Hosea will visit Trinity on Sunday, January 6, and speak at the Mission Committee Epiphany luncheon at noon in Fellowship Hall.

Amani's family remains in Tanzania while he studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. When at home, Amani serves as a chaplain at Southern University, a new school in the Konde Diocese. His wife, Blandina, teaches mathematics, marketing and accounting. They have a two and a half year old son, Israel.

He is currently taking courses in counseling and preparing his master's thesis. Amani will use his training to help youth with drug addictions and mental and physical problems due to malaria. Medical expenses are very high and many families cannot afford the care. He is pleased the church is taking an active role in eradicating malaria in Africa.

When asked about his cultural adjustment, he responded, "Food and American English. I never tasted pizza and other foods. In Tanzania we speak the Queen's English and it was difficult to understand your English. Now I understand well."

Parish Ministry

HEALTH TIP:

"A merry heart doeth good like medicine."
Book of Proverbs

Good blood pressure numbers can make a heart happy. The American Heart Association number for normal is 115/70. Anything higher is considered prehypertension. The American Heart is also asking us to check children. They have found that high blood pressure can show up in children and teens. A good time to change life style and make a heart happy! Trinity's Blood Pressure Screening has the proper equipment for checking all ages. **Stop by the first Sunday of every month outside the Chapel after all services and get yours checked.**

CD Duplicating Ministry

The CD Duplicating Ministry needs additional duplicators. It is not a time consuming ministry and can be done any time the church is open. If interested in serving, please contact: George Wirt (432-1141).

Prayer Concerns

- May Bethlehem's star still light our way and guide us as we pray for those who are experiencing the aftermath of Hurricane Superstorm Sandy.
- We pray for them to know God is with them, to give them courage and strength.
- Be with those who have rushed to their aid with donations or to help rebuild from the devastation.
- The great endeavors are those done for Jesus with someone in need in mind.
- Grant us, O Lord, the power to hear the small voice of long ago.
- Give us Lord the power to see the Holy Light.
- Rejoice in the words of joy, hope and peace on earth where Christ is born anew.
- We give thanks for all gifts which come from Him.

Letters to Trinity

Dear Trinity family,

I wanted to thank you all for the kind thoughts, cards, calls, and the lovely prayer shawl after my recent surgery. It warmed my heart to know so many care and even made sure to check in with my mom. My surgery was a success and I cannot wait to get back to choir! Thank you again; your prayers and well wishes certainly helped my recovery!

Jennifer Gallagher

Dear Trinity Family,

We want to thank all of you who are praying for Bob's physical and spiritual comfort while at Messiah Village. Also, thank you for the flowers that have added such beauty to his room and the prayer blanket that has added much warmth to him on many chilly days.

Your thoughtfulness and kind words are appreciated during this time.

Ann Schmidt and Family

Dear Trinity Staff and members,

Thank you to Pastors Ludwig and Brock for their visits to me during my recent hospitalization. Thank you also for the prayers and cards I have received since my return home. It is very comforting to know there is an entire spiritual family helping in my recovery from hip replacement surgery. I'll be back at worship services soon.

Sincerely,

Patti Shatto

Facts About Christmas

The day after Christmas, December 26, is traditionally known as St. Steven's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. The reason it was called this, alms boxes in church were opened and money distributed to the poor. It is not named after the practice of throwing out large numbers of boxes after Christmas.

There is an old tradition that on Christmas Eve, the little boy Jesus again walks the earth; and in the old country, the mother always sets a lighted candle in the window to light Him on His way.

Spotlight on Trinity's Giving Tree

The **Giving Tree** will be in the Gathering Space during the Advent season to share our love and concern with others on the first Sunday of Advent. Please choose an ornament representing one of the following benevolence ministries:

- **Crosses:** **CROSS** helps a residential ministry for young adults with mental and physical challenges.
- **Toy Trains:** **CACCC** (Churches Affiliated Child Care Centers) provides scholarships for low-income parents returning to the workforce so their children can receive quality daycare.
- **Christmas Trees:** **Missions** supports young students and their families at Gettysburg Seminary.
- **Houses:** **Delta Community**, a local organization helps single parents with children to find safe housing and employment with guidance of experienced staff members.
- **Churches:** **Parish Ministry** reaches out to those in need within our congregation.
- **Angels** represent our **Prison Ministry** for recently released men and women and their families attempting to re-enter society.
- **Christmas Bells:** **New Hope Ministry** supports at-risk or in crisis individuals and families by assisting with basic needs and services.
- **Little Men & Women:** Assists **Bethesda Mission** with their shelter for the homeless.

Some Tips:

- Please return all gifts as early as possible but definitely by the Third Sunday in Advent (December 16) to the Reception Deck in the Gathering Space.
- Read the back of the ornament for requested gift, whether you are to purchase a gift or gift card.
- Give the gift cards with the ornament attached to the receptionist. There will be a box at the desk for gift items.

Whether it is large or small, each gift will share in part the message of true Christmas joy if given from the heart.

YG News

Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. October started with a YG NITE on the 7th. The topic was ALL BY MYSELF and it focused in the theme of "Being a Christian in a non-Christian world". All Christians occasionally struggle with the challenge of living a Christian life in the midst of a non-Christian world. YG NITE focused on the real world "battlefields" that the youth face on a daily basis and how to rely on others to help with the struggle. Great conversation took place. October 14 was JR. HIGH GAMENITE. Twenty-five Jr. High YG and advisors came out for fun and fellowship. The 21st was another YG NITE. The topic was DON'T BE HATIN' focusing on the theme of "Hatred in the World and how to deal with it". Hatred is everywhere in our world. You cannot escape it. We need to make sure us as Christians do not fall into the traps of Hatred. Stay strong and spread words of Love, not Hate, and be about building others up, not breaking them down. Another powerful YG NITE.

The month ended with our ANNUAL YG PASTA NITE. Around 40 YG and advisors worked the evening. About 150 congregation members and YG families were served by YG. This NITE is about fellowship with one another. We raised over \$800 for our Sr. High Servant Trip to Birmingham. Alabama next summer.

I am looking forward to this week long Sr. High Mission Servant Trip. We will be heading to Birmingham to help flood victims rebuild, once again partnering with the organization LutheranHANDS. The leader of LutheranHANDS is a good friend of mind and we've worked with them before. We should have around 15-20 Sr. High YG and several advisors (including myself) attending this trip. The trip will cost around \$400 a person, so we'll need to raise a lot of money to make it happen. These servant trips provide a great opportunity for our youth to "get their hands dirty" and help others in need. It teaches them to look at the plight of others and not just concentrate on themselves. They will be better because of it, faith-wise and beyond. Most important, it goes hand and hand with this year's YG theme of "STIRRING THINGS UP" in others' lives and our own.

I am looking forward to the rest of this YG year. It will ROCK!!!

Yours In Christ,

Peter A. Fox
Youth Ministry Director

Every Member Prayer List

December 2-8: Yvonne Glass; Lana Glaser; John Gilson; Mary Lou Gilbert; Anna Gessner; Karen and Kingston Georges; Bert and Jana Georges; Julie, Cole, and Hailey George; Brent, Kelly, Hannah, and Caroline George. **December 9-15:** Joseph and Pia Gensbigler; Kevin Geist; Lisa, Jacob, Lyndsay, and Jaxon Geisel; Dennis and Julie Geib; June Geedey; Bradley, Pamela, and Katelynn Gebhart; Laryssa and Holden Gaughen; Ed and Marlene Gates. **December 16-22:** Virginia Gardner; Michael, Jenny, and Kalina Gardner; Pat, Patty, Alex, Ryan, and Amanda Garber; Iona Garber; Ashley Garbacik; Bunny Gantt; Stuart, Amy, and Allison Gansell; Frank and Gerry Gamber; Sam and Joan Gamber; Matthew and Ian Gamber. **December 23-29:** Jenn Gallagher; Fran Gable; Jana Furst; Michael, Susanne, and Chase Funk; Adam Frymoyer; Bob and Holly Frymoyer; Edward and Doris Frye. **December 30-January 5:** Roger, Sharon, and Jaime Fry; Michael Fry; Kimberly Fry; Kenneth and Susan Fry; Gordon Fry; Anne Fry; Ann Fry; Andrew Fry; Sue Froh; Zachary and Katelyn Frock.

**"The Lutheran" Adult Forum
Sunday, December 23, 2012**

Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in Room 126 for a discussion on "**The Power of Lutheran Words**" from pages 20-26 of the November 2012 issue of *The Lutheran* magazine. For 500 years Lutherans have championed the freeing power of God's love and grace over and against theologies that place Jesus' followers in bondage to guilt, despair, hopelessness, obligation and fear. Our witness remains as strong – *and as necessary* – today as it did in 1521 when Martin Luther refused to recant his theology at his heresy trial. If you do not have access to the articles, paper copies will be available about two weeks in advance of the session and may be picked up at the reception desk in the Gathering Space. If you have any questions, please contact class coordinators Craig Staller or Doug Bonsall (921-1957).

Council Update

From the November 12, 2012 meeting:

- Opened the meeting with devotions by Craig Staller.
- Discussed new format for the Annual Congregation meeting in January 2013.
- Council welcomed Frank Leber who presented a report on Trinity's financial overview and history of strategic planning.
- Voted to approve Policy Pages 1.30.00-A (Role of Staff Advisor), 1.30.13 (Stewardship Committee), and 1.31.21 (IT/AV Committee).
- Nominated and voted for Frank Bertovich to be the 2013 Congregation Council President.
- Nominated and voted for Bert Weaver to be the 2013 Congregation Council Vice President.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council will be held Monday December 10, 2012.

1st Annual Chili Sunday January 20, 2013

The Fellowship Team will host the 1st Annual Chili Sunday on January 20 at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to come sample and vote on a variety of chilies. Families, groups, and individuals who wish to enter the chili contest are invited to make up a big batch of favorite chili in a crockpot to complete for the "Best Chili" award. Drop your crockpot off at the kitchen during the morning. The name of the entrant with the winning chili will be engraved on a plaque to be displayed at Trinity.

The Fellowship Team will provide hotdogs, crackers, beverages and cookies. A free-will offering will be accepted to offset expenses. Please plan to come enjoy some winter fellowship and fun!



Save the Date

Sunday, March 10, 2013

A fun- filled benefit event with a goal to raise \$13,000 (or more) to fight malaria.



Book Discussion Group

The book for December 9 of the **Book Discussion Group** is:

- *The Dive from Clausen's Pier: A Novel* by Ann Packer.

Dear Friends:

Through your gift, you are a powerful part of our Gettysburg Seminary community. As one of our graduates, Pastor Sadie Pounder, '08, put it, "No one can go this journey alone!" Pastor Sadie can recall in her first year of seminary entering her teaching parish church (Zion, Enola) for the first time and being awed by the distance from the front door to the pulpit where she would eventually have to preach. Your generosity not only helps students like Sadie navigate distances during their years of study, when they graduate, the support you've invested goes with them.

Thank you for your role in the journey of service we undertake together in Christ's name. Thank you for being an important part of our ministry in the making.

*Rev. Kathleen O. Reed, LTSG '80
Chief Advancement Officer
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*

PS To learn more about Sadie and the paths of other students, visit our Ministry in the Making website: www.LTSG.edu/GSF and watch for email updates and profiles in our magazine, *Seminary Views*.



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Trinity Parish Deadline

The deadline for the January 2013 edition of *Trinity Parish* is Monday, December 10, 2012 – no exceptions. If e-mailing articles, please send to: parish@trinitycamphill.org Please keep all articles to 300 words or less. Articles may also be dropped off in the *Trinity Parish* mailbox in the church office.